

DIFFICULTIES IN THE REDUCTION OF FRACTURES OF THE LONG BONES AND THE PRINCIPLES OF TREATMENT

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1. Traction is the best agent for reducing and maintaining reduction of fractures of the long bones.
2. The main difficulties encountered in the reduction of fractures are three in number:—(1) interlocking of the fragments; (2) interposition of soft parts; and (3) *delay*. Of these, interposition of soft parts sufficient to seriously interfere with union calls for an open operation; interlocking can usually be overcome by traction; while delay, although the most important, is generally overlooked.
3. Delay means swelling which interferes with reduction to the extent sometimes of making it impossible.
4. Early reduction prevents swelling.
5. Reduction by traction after swelling has taken place requires a greater and more prolonged tractive effort, and usually entails the employment of skeletal traction.

WHEN IS THE OPERATIVE TREATMENT JUSTIFIED IN THE TREATMENT OF FRACTURES OF THE LONG BONES?

DR. CHARLES L. SCUDDER

The operative treatment of fractures traced in its development. New conceptions of the importance of fractures. Dependent on industrial developments, conceptions of the relations of the limbs, conceptions of bone, conceptions of process of repair. General surgical development. What is meant by non-operative treatment? What is meant by operative treatment? Conditions to be considered in formulating an opinion as to the applicability of operative treatment to fractures of the long bones. Fractures in children and fractures in adults likely to need operative treatment.

Qualifications stated of a surgeon doing operative work in fractures.